(b) and (c) Central Motor Vehicle Rules, 1989 prescribe standards suited to Indian conditions for training of drivers and these are comparable to international standards. Training of drivers is an important element of the road safety programmes undertaken by the Government and has contributed to the declining trend in accidents. In the current year financial assistance has been given by the Government to impart refresher training to approximately 19000 heavy vehicle drivers. The decline in trend of accidents is also due to other Engineering, Education and Enforcement measures undertaken by the Government to improve road safety. Some of the other measures taken by the Government to improve road safety are as under:

(1) About 15,750 drivers of heavy motor vehicles have been provided refresher training in the last Plan period.

(2) Publicity campaigns on road safety awareness through audiovisual-print media.

(3) Grants-in-aid is provided to voluntary organizations for administering road safety programmes.

(4) Use of simulators in driver's training is encouraged.

(5) National Award instituted for voluntary organizations/individuals for outstanding work in the field of road safety.

(6) All India Essay Competition on road safety are organized for school children for creating awareness among the school children.

(7) Fitness norms for transport vehicles have been tightened.

(8) Widening/improvement of roads.

Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund

*155. SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
DR. ABRAR AHMED:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any final decision on constitution of the Indian Overseas Workers Welfare Fund to safeguard interest of the Indian overseas workers going overseas for employment on a contractual basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Government has already introduced the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002, in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002, with a view to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and Indian Overseas Worker's Welfare Fund.The proposed Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund shall meet the contingencies, such as (a) making the payment to the Embassies or High Commissions for arranging return ticket for the workers who get stranded in the foreign countries, (b) meeting the cost of transportation of dead bodies of the workers,(c) granting financial assistance to such workers who become partially or permanently disabled, and (d) providing relief for such other causes as may be specified in the rules. But the assistance shall not be provided to illegal migrants.

Rag-Pickers' Rights

*156. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether High Court of Delhi has issued a notice to the Centre on the rag-pickers' rights in the Capital;

(b) what is the status of implementation of the various laws to curb child labour and improve plight of rag-pickers in the Capital; and

(c) the details of the children deployed in this illegal trade in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) The High Court of Delhi has issued notices to the Ministry of Labour, Govt, of India alongwith the NCT of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Council in connection with Civil Writ Petition No. 5982 of 2002 (Public Interest Litigation) filed by Social Jurist - a Lawyers Group *Vs* Union of India and others regarding the plight of children engaged in rag-picking work in Delhi.

The Government of India has included the process of Rag-picking in the Schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986 which prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 in listed